



**Markup in the Committee on Education and Labor
Statement on H.R. 2187, The 21st Century Green High-Performing
Public School Facilities Act
Wednesday, May 6, 2009**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to express my strong support for H.R. 2187 and to commend Congressman Chandler for introducing this important measure.

H.R. 2187 provides support to our school districts to address a chronically underfunded need—school modernization and renovation. Because of the economic downturn, school budgets are being slashed. Needing to cut their own spending, school districts are forced to postpone or even forego the construction and renovation of run-down schools in favor of immediate expenses like teacher salaries.

The modernization and renovation of schools is critical to raising student achievement and preparing students to enter the workforce. Research confirms what common sense suggests, namely that student achievement is higher in well-maintained schools than in crumbling ones. It is not surprising that students perform better when placed in a learning environment that affirms the value of education. Just imagine the message a school sends to students about the importance of learning when it is filled with shattered windows, broken lockers, and out-of-date equipment. No student should be forced to learn under such conditions.

The renovation of schools also allows for new technologies to be incorporated into these schools. New technology not only gives instructors additional teaching tools, but also exposes students to the type of technology they will be expected to use when they enter the workforce.

Mr. Chairman, in the interest of brevity, I have listed only the educational benefits of this legislation and have omitted the positive effects this legislation would have on the environment and the economy. Needless to say, H.R. 2187 is good public policy—truly a “win/win” piece of legislation—and I urge the Committee to support it.